Timothy Martin
HURON CONSULTING SERVICES LLC
265 Franklin St., Suite 402

Boston, MA 02119 Tel: (617) 266-5530

Financial Advisor to the Examiner

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Debtors.

In re:		Chapter 11
	CELSIUS NETWORK, INC., et al., 1	Case No. 22-10964(MG)

SUMMARY COVER SHEET TO FINAL APPLICATION OF HURON CONSULTING SERVICES LLC AS FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO THE EXAMINER FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 10, 2022, THROUGH AND INCLUDING MARCH 31, 2023

(Jointly Administered)

Name of Applicant:	<b>Huron Consulting Services LLC.</b>			
	Financial Advisor to the Examiner			
Date of Retention	November 1, 2022, effective as of the			
	October 10, 2022			
Date of Order Approving Retention	November 1, 2022			
Period for Which Fees and expenses are	October 10, 2022, through March 31, 2023			
Incurred:				
	<u> </u>			
Compensation Sought in this Application	\$0.00			
Already Paid Pursuant to a Monthly				
Compensation Order but Not Yet Allowed:				
Expense Reimbursement Sought in this	\$0.00			
Application Already Paid Pursuant to a				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtors' federal tax identification number, are: Celsius Network LLC (2148); Celsius KeyFi LLC (4414); Celsius Lending LLC (8417); Celsius Mining LLC (1387); Celsius Network Inc. (1219); Celsius Network Limited (8554); Celsius Networks Lending LLC (3390); Celsius US Holding LLC (7956); GK8 Ltd. (1209); GK8 UK Ltd. (0893); and GK8 USA LLC (9450). The location of Debtor Celsius Network LLC's principal place of business and the Debtors' service address in these chapter 11 cases is 121 River Street, PH05, Hoboken, New Jersey 07030.

Monthly Compensation Order but Not Yet	
Allowed:	
Total Balance Due Pursuant to this	\$0
Application:	
Total compensation approved to date by	\$3,887,173.76
Interim Order:	
Total expenses approved to date by Interim	\$607.07
Order:	
Total allowed compensation paid to date:	\$3,887,173.76
Total allowed expenses reimbursed to date:	\$607.07
Number of professionals included in this	15
application:	
Number of professionals billing fewer than 15	2
hours:	
Type of fee statement or application	Final Fee Application
Blended rate in this application for all	\$915.99
timekeepers:	
Are any rates higher than those approved or	Yes. Rates for certain Huron professionals
disclosed at retention?	were increased as disclosed in the <i>Notice of</i>
	Huron Consulting Services LLC, Financial
	Advisor to the Examiner, or Rate Increases
	Effective January 1, 2023 [Dkt. 1733]
Difference between fees budgeted and	\$887,173.76 <sup>2</sup>
compensation sought:	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Amended Work Plan of Shoba Pillay, Examiner [Dkt. 1438-1) estimated that Huron's fee "would aggregate approximately \$2 to \$3 million.".

Professional	Title	Rate	Hours	Fees
Timothy Martin, CIRA, CTP,	Managing Director	\$ 1,095	558.5	\$ 611,557.50
CFE, CCFI				
		1,100	356.9	392,590.00
Robert Barnett	Managing Director	1,020	141.8	144,636.00
Karen Miles	Managing Director	1,095	14.2	15,549.00
		1,100	22.3	24,530.00
Michael Boyer, MBA, CIRA, CCE	Senior Director	920	404.4	372,048.00
CCE		950	318.9	302,955.00
Anju Joseph	Senior Director	920	239.3	220,156.00
		950	71.2	67,640.00
Robert Loh, CIRA, CFE, CFCS,	Senior Director	920	579.4	533,048.00
CCA, CCE				
		950	339.9	322,905.00
Jean-Louis Sorondo	Senior Director	950	462.6	439,470.00
Aaron Koranek	Senior Director	920	55.0	50,600.00
		950	107.1	101,745.00
Harrison Leggio	Director	800	63.6	50,880.00
Ching Wei Tan	Director	770	12.7	9,779.00
Wojitek Hajduczyk	Director	725	7.9	5,727.50
Adam Zughayer	Director	660	26.3	17,358.00
Richard Manza	Manager	575	8.1	4,657.00
Amanda Quintile	Associate (promoted to manager effective January 1, 2023)	495	274.0	135,630.00
	checure summing 1, 2025)	600	117.4	70,440.00
Jason Olivo	Associate	495	106.0	52,470.00
		500	45.8	22,900.00
Total Professional Charges			4,333.3	\$3,969,271.00

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Boston, MA 02110
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tmartin@hcg.com

Financial Advisor to the Examiner

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:

CELSIUS NETWORK, INC., et al., 1

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 22-10964(MG)

(Jointly Administered)

### FINAL FEE APPLICATION OF HURON CONSULTING SERVICES LLC AS FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO THE EXAMINER FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 10, 2022, THROUGH AND INCLUDING MARCH 31, 2023

Huron Consulting Services LLC ("Huron"), Financial Advisor to the Examiner, hereby submits its final fee application (the "Final Fee Application") for allowance and approval of compensation for professional services provided and reimbursement of expenses incurred in the amount of \$3,887,780.83 for the period from October 10, 2022 through and including March 31, 2023 (the "Fee Period") in accordance with sections 327, 330, and 331 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rules 2014 and 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), Rules 2014-1 and 2016-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Local Rules"),

and Celsius US Holding LLC (7956). The location of Debtor Celsius Network LLC's principal place of business and the Debtors' service address in these chapter 11 cases is 121 River Street, PH05, Hoboken, New Jersey 07030.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtors' federal tax identification number, are: Celsius Network LLC (2148); Celsius KeyFi LLC (4414); Celsius Lending LLC (8417); Celsius Mining LLC (1387); Celsius Network Inc. (1219); Celsius Network Limited (8554); Celsius Networks Lending LLC (3390);

and the Amended Order (I) Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for Retained Professionals and (II) Granting Related Relief [Dkt. 1745] ("Interim Compensation Order"); the Court's Amended Guidelines for Fees and Disbursements for Professionals in Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Cases, dated July 17, 2013 (the "Local Guidelines"); the United States Trustee's Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Large Chapter 11 Cases Effective as of November 1, 2013 (the "UST Guidelines"); and the Amended Order Appointing Independent Fee Examiner and Establishing Related Procedures for the Review of Fee Applications of Retained Professionals (the "Fee Examiner Order") [Dkt. 1746]. In support of this Application, Huron submits the Certification of Timothy Martin (the "Martin Certification"), attached hereto as Exhibit A, and respectfully represents as follows:

#### **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. On October 14, 2022, the Examiner filed her Application for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Huron Consulting Services LLC as Financial Advisor Effective as of October 10, 2022 [Dkt. 1070], which included a copy of the engagement letter between Huron and the Examiner and was approved by the terms of the Retention Order [Dkt. 1262] (the "Retention Order"). During the Interim Period, Huron worked for or on behalf of the Examiner and with the Examiner's counsel and reviewed and analyzed large volume of data and records, interviewed current and former Celsius personnel and customers, engaged in numerous information-gathering discussions with the various interested parties, including the Debtors, and assisted with both the Interim Report of Shoba Pillay, Examiner, filed November 19, 2022 [Dkt. 1411] (the "Interim Report") and the Final Report of Shoba Pillay, Examiner, filed

January 31, 2023 [Dkt. 1956] (the "**Final Report**"). Huron submits that its work during the Fee Period was necessary for, and beneficial to, the Examiner in these chapter 11 cases, and respectfully requests that the Court award the fees requested in this Final Fee Application.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).
  - 2. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 3. The bases for the relief requested herein are Bankruptcy Code sections 330 and 331, Bankruptcy Rule 2016, and Local Rule 2016-1.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 4. On July 13, 2022 (the "**Petition Date**"), each of the Debtors filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors have continued to operate their businesses and manage their affairs as debtors and debtors in possession under Bankruptcy Code sections 1107(a) and 1108.
- 5. On August 18, 2022, the United States Trustee filed a motion seeking appointment of an examiner. [Dkt. 546.]
- 6. On September 14, 2022, the Court entered the *Order Directing the Appointment of* an Examiner Pursuant to Section 1104(c) of the Bankruptcy Code [Dkt. 820] ("Examiner Order"), directing the appointment of an examiner under section 1104(c) to investigate:
  - a. "the Debtors' cryptocurrency holdings, including a determination as to where the Debtors' cryptocurrency holdings were stored prepetition and are stored post petition and whether different types of accounts are commingled";

- b. "why there was a change in account offerings beginning in April 2022 from the Earn Program to the Custody Service for some customers while others were placed in a 'Withhold Account'";
- c. "the Debtors' procedures for paying sales taxes, use taxes, and value-added taxes and the extent of the Debtors' compliance with any non-bankruptcy laws with respect thereto"; and
- d. "the current status of the utility obligations of the Debtors' mining business."

#### (Examiner Order ¶ 3.)

- 7. The Examiner Order also directed the examiner to "otherwise perform the duties of an examiner set forth in §§ 1106(a)(3) and 1106(a)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code," subject to the terms of the Examiner Order. (*Id.*)
- 8. On September 29, 2022, the United States Trustee appointed Shoba Pillay as Examiner and filed a notice of the appointment [Dkt. 920] and the Examiner Application. Also on September 29, 2022, this Court entered an order approving the appointment of the Examiner. [Dkt. 923.]
- 9. On October 11, 2022, the Examiner filed her Work Plan, in accordance with paragraph 7 of the Examiner Order [Dkt. 1013-1] ("Initial Work Plan"). Under the Examiner Order, the Examiner's final report was due 60 days after the filing of her Initial Work Plan—i.e., December 10, 2022—absent further order of the Court on notice to all parties. (Examiner Order ¶ 8.)
- 10. On October 11, 2022, the Bankruptcy Court entered a scheduling order to address claims made by two ad hoc groups. These groups claim that the crypto assets held in what Celsius called Custody and Withhold accounts are property of the account holders, rather than property of Celsius' bankruptcy estates. (See Joint Stipulation and Agreed Scheduling Order By and Among the Debtors, The Committee, The Ad Hoc Groups With Respect to Custody and Withhold Issues

[Dkt. 1044] ("**Phase I Order**").) Because of factual overlap between this claim and the Examiner's investigation, the Court directed the Examiner to file an Interim Report by November 19, 2022 addressing several factual issues:

- how and when the Custody and Withhold wallets were created;
- whether the Custody and Withhold wallets have only ever held Custody and Withhold Coins, respectively, and whether the Custody and Withhold wallets include coins that have been designated as pledged collateral;
- the process by which coins were transferred in and out of Custody and Withhold wallets;
- the balance of assets in Custody and Withhold accounts and Custody and Withhold liabilities in the ten (10) days before and after the pause by coin;
- the number and types of coins that are currently in Custody and Withhold wallets as a step in an unsuccessful attempt to withdraw coins off of the platform (to the extent ascertainable).

 $(Id. \ \ 7.)$ 

- 11. On November 1, 2022, the Court entered an Order Approving Examiner's Motion to Confirm Examination Scope or Alternatively for Expansion of the Scope of the Examination [Dkt. 1260] ("First Scope Order"), which clarified that:
  - a. Topic (i) set forth in the Examiner Order includes an examination of the Debtors' CEL tokens, including why and how other digital assets were converted into CEL tokens, and how these tokens were marketed, stored, and traded including whether any of the Debtors' trading practices involving CEL tokens generally or determinations of CEL tokens awarded as part of the Earn Rewards program impacted their value, and
  - b. Topic (ii) set forth in the Examiner Order includes an examination of the representations Debtors generally made in public representations to customers to attract them to their platform and about their cryptocurrency holdings and account offerings.

(*Id.*  $\P\P$  2-3.)

12. On November 14, 2022, the Court entered a Stipulation and Agreed Order Modifying Scope of Examiner Order [Dkt. 1343] ("Second Scope Order," and together with the

First Scope Order, the "Examiner Orders") under which the "[t]he scope of the Examiner's factual investigation and report is expanded to include an investigation and report on whether the Debtors used new deposits being made by customers to make payments or otherwise meet obligations to existing customers at a time when the Debtors had no other sources (whether liquid or which could have been monetized) from which to make such payments or meet such obligations." (*Id.* ¶ 1.).

- 13. On November 19, 2022, the Examiner filed the Interim Report, addressing the issues identified in the Phase I Order.
- 14. On December 2, 2022, the Court entered an Order Approving Amended Work Plan [Dkt. 1562], which approved the Examiner's Amended Work Plan [Dkt. 1438-1] ("Amended Work Plan") and extended the Examiner's deadline to file her Final Report ("Final Report") to January 17, 2023. The Amended Work Plan estimates the total fees for the Examiner and Jenner & Block would aggregate approximately \$6 to \$7 million in light of the clarified and expanded scope of the Examiner's investigation. (*Id.* ¶ 29.)
- 15. On January 11, 2023, the Court entered an order extending the Examiner's deadline to file the Final Report to January 30, 2023. [Dkt. 1851.]
  - 16. On January 31, 2023, the Examiner filed the Final Report [Dkt. 1956].

### **HURON'S STATEMENT AND REQUEST**

- 17. On October 14, 2022, the Examiner filed her *Application to Employ Huron Consulting Services LLC as Financial Advisor to the Examiner* [Dkt. 1070].
  - 18. On November 1, 2022, the Court entered the Retention Order.
- 19. On December 15, 2022, Huron filed the First Interim Application of Huron Consulting Services LLC for Professional Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred as Financial Advisor to the Examiner for the Period of October 10, 2022 through October

- 31, 2022 [Dkt. 1719] (the "**First Interim Application**"), seeking \$518,063.00 in fees. On April 24, 2023, the Court issued an Order allowing compensation in the amount of \$501,510.06. [Dkt. 2523]. On December 27, 2022, Huron received payment of \$414,450.40 representing 80% of the professional fees sought on the First Interim Application. On June 2, 2023, Huron received payment of \$87,059.66 representing the balance due on the total approved fees of \$501,510.06.
- 20. On April 14, 2023, Huron filed the Second Interim Application of Huron Consulting Services LLC for Professional Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred as Financial Advisor to the Examiner for the Period of November 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 [Dkt. 2465] (the "Second Interim Application"), seeking \$3,386,594.00 in fees. On July 19, 2023, the Court issued an Order allowing compensation in the amount of \$3,333,570.70. [Dkt. 3055]. On August 10, 2023, Huron received payment of \$3,333,570.00.
- 21. On August 15, 2023, Huron filed the *Third Interim Application of Huron Consulting Services LLC for Professional Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred as Financial Advisor to the Examiner for the Period of March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023* [Dkt. 3309] (the "**Third Interim Application**"), seeking \$52,093 in fees and \$607.07 in expenses (inclusive of a voluntary discount of \$12,522.00). On November 30, 2023, the Court issued an Order allowing compensation in the amount of \$52,700.07. [Dkt. 4056]. On December 15, 2023, Huron received payment of \$52,700.08.
- 22. All services provided by Huron during the Fee Period were performed for or on behalf of the Examiner. Huron has received no payment and no promises of payment from any source for services rendered or to be rendered in any capacity whatsoever in connection with the matters covered by this Final Fee Application. There is, and has been, no agreement or understanding between Huron and any other entity for the sharing of compensation to be received

for services rendered in these cases. Under the engagement letter between Huron and the Examiner [Dkt. 1070-4] (the "Engagement Letter"), as approved by the terms of the Retention Order, Huron is entitled to compensation for fees earned in its role assisting the Examiner during the pendency of these chapter 11 cases.

- 23. The Application is supported by the following Exhibits, which are attached hereto and patterned on the U.S. Trustee Guidelines:
- 24. **Exhibit A** is a certification by the undersigned Managing Director of Huron regarding compliance with the Local Guidelines.
- 25. **Exhibit B** is a summary of Huron's professionals by individual, setting forth the (a) name and title of each individual who provided services during the Fee Period, (b) aggregate hours spent by each individual, (c) hourly billing rate for each such individual at Huron's then current billing rates, and (d) amount of fees earned by each Huron professional.
- 26. **Exhibit C** is a summary of the services rendered and compensation sought, by project category. The project categories include:
  - a. Task 1 Cryptocurrency Analysis. In accordance with the Courtordered investigation of the Debtors' storage and transfer of cryptocurrency (Examiner Order ¶ 3(i)), analyses and fact finding related to the Debtors' cryptocurrency assets, including Freeze/Coin Reports, Earn, Custody and Withheld accounts, crypto tracing, asset tracking, and related data forensics. As stated in the Final Report, "On October 10, 2022, the Examiner engaged Huron Consulting Group to serve as her financial advisor. Huron reviewed Celsius's financial records including accounting records provided by Celsius and

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information and data provided by Celsius's current crypto asset wallet manager, Fireblocks - to assess Celsius's financial activity, crypto assets, and mining business. Huron also reviewed publicly sourced information, including transactions recorded on various blockchains (e.g., Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Polygon). Using a combination of Celsius's internal records and public information, Huron identified how Celsius "held, deployed, moved, and stored crypto assets." The Examiner did not engage a separate blockchain analytics firm for her investigation and this work was primarily performed by Huron. Huron is seeking the award on a final basis of \$2,206,574.50 fees in this category.

- b. Task 2 Tax Analysis. In accordance with the Court-ordered investigation of the Debtors' tax law compliance (Examiner Order ¶3(iii)), analyses and fact finding related to the Debtors' tax obligations. Part Four of the Final Report details the results of this investigation, including uncovering significant tax compliance deficiencies. Huron is seeking the award on a final basis of \$75,345.00 fees in this category.
- c. Task 3 Utility Obligations. In accordance with the Court-ordered investigation of the Debtors' utility obligations and mining business (Examiner Order ¶3(iv)), analyses and fact finding related to the Debtors' mining business including analyses of utility and hosting obligations. The results of these analyses are detailed in Part Three of

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- the Final Report. Huron is seeking the award on a final basis of \$227,252.50 fees in this category.
- d. **Task 4 Billing and Fee Applications.** Huron's recorded time entries in this task category reflect time spent preparing Huron's first, second, and third interim applications. Huron is seeking the award on a final basis of \$134,129.00 fees in this category.
- e. Task 5 Investigation Planning and Coordination. Internal meetings or meetings with counsel related to investigation planning, strategy, and coordination of efforts. For efficiency purposes, Huron assigned certain professionals to work with the Jenner & Block teams directed by the Examiner to investigate specific issues. For example, the Huron professionals investigating cryptocurrency related issues would meet and coordinate with the Jenner & Block team assigned to that area. In order to share information, and avoid duplication of efforts, the leaders of each team, along with the Examiner, would meet to discuss key issues and documents as well as next steps. Huron is seeking the award on a final basis of \$209,830.00 fees in this category.
- f. Task 6 Communications with Parties in Interest. Huron's recorded time entries in this task category include, among other things: (a) meeting and communicating with the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors' professionals and others regarding sharing of information, coordination of efforts, and avoiding duplication of work; and (b) other third-party communication not attributable to a specific task category.

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Huron is seeking the award on a final basis of \$50,470.50 fees in this category.

- g. **Task 7 Witness Interviews**. Time spent preparing for, conducting and participating in witness interviews. Thirty-four individuals were interviewed for the completion of the Final Report, including current and former employees, customers, representatives from vendors, and other third parties. Most of the witness interviews required more than one Huron professional in attendance. The reasons for multiple attendees include:
  - i.) a Huron professional with subject matter knowledge usually conducted the financial portion of the interview;
  - ii.) witnesses often addressed multiple topic areas and as certain issues were subdivided by topic, different Huron professionals were responsible for each. For example, multiple Huron professionals attended several of the cryptocurrency related interviews because each was responsible for different aspects of the investigation, (e.g., cryptocurrency tracing, decentralized investments, internal processes, etc.); and
  - iii.) interviews were often scheduled on short notice, and/or large volumes of documents were produced the day prior to interviews, requiring several members of the Huron team to review and analyze substantial document productions quickly to be prepared for the interviews. Professionals responsible for

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the analyses often participated in the interviews to educate, in real time, the Jenner & Block and Huron professionals conducting the interviews.

Huron took efforts to limit participation to those professionals necessary to conduct a thorough and efficient interview. Huron is seeking the award on a final basis of \$212,850.50 fees in this category.

- h. Task 8 Report Preparation and Drafting. Time spent drafting language, charts, graphs and appendices to be included in the Interim Report and Final Report. Similar to the times spent in Task 5 (Investigation Planning and Coordination), efforts were taken to limit participation in meetings to those with subject matter responsibilities, including the drafting of language, charts, tables or exhibits to be included in the respective sections of the Interim Report or Final Report. Huron is seeking the award on a final basis of \$397,536.00 fees in this category.
- i. Task 9 Business Operations. Time spent reviewing, analyzing and summarizing the Debtors' financial condition. As described in Part One, Section III.C.2 of the Final Report, the Debtors provided the Examiner with view-only access to its accounting system, which permitted the Huron team to review balances and transactions for each of the Celsius entities from 2018 forward. Using this information, and additional information obtained through document productions and witness interviews, Huron prepared the analyses described in the Final

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Report, including the solvency assessment of Celsius as a whole as of year-end 2018 – 2020 and the quarters-ended March 31, 2021 through June 30, 2022, the analysis of intercompany transactions, including the migration of the Debtors' cryptocurrency assets in 2021 and other intercompany transactions, and the accounting for the Debtors' CEL token. Huron is seeking the award on a final basis of \$244,011.00 fees in this category.

- j. Task 10 Asset Valuation. As noted in Section VIII to the Final Report, the Examiner requested that Huron estimate the value of the Debtors' mining business at several dates. In connection with the preparation of these estimates (shown in Appendix 17 of the Final Report), Huron reviewed and analyzed data produced by the Debtors and publicly available information to consider each of the valuation approaches and to ultimately compute the estimates of value using the market approach to valuation. This task code includes time spent reviewing document production, performing industry research, analyzing financial and operational data of Celsius Mining, and developing market multiples for comparable publicly traded companies, as of multiple dates. Huron is seeking the award on a final basis of \$211,272.00 fees in this category.
- 27. Attached hereto as **Exhibit D** is a summary of Huron's Prior Fee Applications.
- 28. Attached hereto as **Exhibit E** is a summary of the expenses incurred by category.

#### HURON'S REQUESTED COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT SHOULD BE ALLOWED

29. Section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a court may award a professional employed under section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code "reasonable compensation for actual necessary services rendered . . . and reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." 11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(1). Section 330 also sets forth the criteria for the award of such compensation and reimbursement:

In determining the amount of reasonable compensation to be awarded, the court should consider the nature, extent, and the value of such services, taking into account all relevant factors, including—

- (a) the time spent on such services;
- (b) the rates charged for such services;
- (c) whether the services were necessary to the administration of, or beneficial at the time at which the service was rendered toward the completion of, a case under this title;
- (d) whether the services were performed within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance, and nature of the problem, issue, or task addressed; and
- (e) whether the compensation is reasonable based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in cases other than cases under this title.

#### 11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(3).

30. Huron respectfully submits that the services for which it seeks compensation in this Fee Application were, at the time rendered, necessary for and beneficial to the Examiner and were rendered for or on behalf of the Examiner. Huron further believes that it performed the services for the Examiner economically, effectively, and efficiently, and the results obtained benefited the Examiner. Huron further submits that the compensation requested herein is reasonable in light of the nature, extent, and value of such services to the Examiner in the performance of their duties.

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31. In sum, Huron respectfully submits that the professional services provided by Huron on behalf of the Examiner during these chapter 11 cases were necessary and appropriate given the complexity of these chapter 11 cases, the time expended by Huron, the nature and extent of Huron's services provided, the value of Huron's services, and the cost of comparable services outside of bankruptcy, all of which are relevant factors set forth in section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code. Accordingly, Huron respectfully submits that approval of the compensation sought herein is warranted and should be approved. To the extent that this Application is not in compliance with the Local Guidelines or any provision of the Interim Compensation Order, Huron respectfully requests that such Local Guidelines or provisions of the Interim Compensation Order be waived to the extent that any deviations are not material.

32. As detailed in Exhibit E, Huron has incurred a total of \$607.07 in expenses on behalf of the Examiner during the Fee Period<sup>2</sup>. These expenses are intended to reimburse Huron's direct costs that are not included in Huron's hourly billing rates. Only clients who use services of the types set forth in Exhibit E of this Fee Application are charged for such services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Huron did not seek reimbursement of expenses on the First and Second Interim Fee Applications.

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WHEREFORE, Huron respectfully requests that the Court enter an order (a) awarding Huron's compensation for professional and paraprofessional services provided during the Fee Period in the amount of \$3,887,173.76; (b) allowance of \$607.07 for the actual and necessary costs and expenses that Huron incurred in connection with such services during the Fee Period; and (c) granting such other relief as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Dated: January 19, 2024 Boston, MA

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Timothy J. Martin

Timothy J. Martin HURON CONSULTING SERVICES LLC

265 Franklin St., Suite 402

Boston, MA 02110 Tel: (617) 266-5530

tmartin@hcg.com

Financial Advisor to the Examiner

## EXHIBIT A

**Martin Certification** 

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:

CELSIUS NETWORK, INC., et al., 1

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 22-10964(MG)

(Jointly Administered)

CERTIFICATION UNDER LOCAL GUIDELINES
FOR FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS
IN RESPECT OF THE FINAL FEE APPLICATION
OF HURON CONSULTING SERVICES LLC FOR COMPENSATION
FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED AS FINANCIAL ADVISORS TO THE
EXAMINER FROM OCTOBER 10, 2022 TO AND INCLUDING MARCH 31, 2023

- I, Timothy Martin, hereby certify that:
- 1. I am a Managing Director of Huron Consulting Services LLC, a financial advisory firm with offices located at 265 Franklin St, Boston MA 02110.
- 2. This certification is made in respect to Huron's compliance with General Order M-447, Amended Guidelines for Fees and Disbursements for Professionals in Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Cases Pursuant to Local Rule 2016-1(a) (as updated June 17, 2013) (the "Local Guidelines") in connection with the final application filed contemporaneously here within (the "Application") for compensation for the period commencing October 10, 2023 to and including March 31, 2023 in accordance with Local Guidelines.
  - 3. In respect of Section B.1 of the Local Guidelines, I certify that:

The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtors' federal tax identification number, are: Celsius Network LLC (2148); Celsius KeyFi LLC (4414); Celsius Lending LLC (8417); Celsius Mining LLC (1387); Celsius Network Inc. (1219); Celsius Network Limited (8554); Celsius Networks Lending LLC (3390); Celsius US Holding LLC (7956); GK8 Ltd. (1209); GK8 UK Ltd. (0893); and GK8 USA LLC (9450). The location of Debtor Celsius Network LLC's principal place of business and the Debtors' service address in these chapter 11 cases is 121 River Street, PH05, Hoboken, New Jersey 07030.

- a. I have read the Application;
- b. To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the fees sought fall within the Local Guidelines;
- c. The fees and disbursements sought are billed at rates and in accordance with practices customarily employed by Huron and generally accepted by Huron's clients; and
- d. With respect to the expense reimbursement sought in the Application, Huron did not make a profit on account of such expenses incurred, where performed by Huron in-house or through a third party.
- 4. I certify that Huron has provided the information required by the Local Guidelines in the Application and that the United States Trustee for the Southern District of New York, the Debtors, and the counsel for the Debtors are being provided with a copy of the Application.

Dated: January 19, 2024

Boston, MA Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Timothy J. Martin
Timothy J. Martin

HURON CONSULTING SERVICES LLC

265 Franklin St., Suite 402 Boston, MA 02110 Tel: (617) 266-5530

tmartin@hcg.com

# **EXHIBIT B**Summary of Time Billed by Professional

Professional	Title	Rate	Hours	Fees
Timothy Martin, CIRA, CTP,	Managing Director	\$ 1,095	558.5	\$ 611,557.50
CFE, CCFI				
		1,100	356.9	392,590.00
Robert Barnett	Managing Director	1,020	141.8	144,636.00
Karen Miles	Managing Director	1,095	14.2	15,549.00
		1,100	22.3	24,530.00
Michael Boyer, MBA, CIRA, CCE	Senior Director	920	404.4	372,048.00
CCE		950	318.9	302,955.00
Anju Joseph	Senior Director	920	239.3	220,156.00
		950	71.2	67,640.00
Robert Loh, CIRA, CFE, CFCS,	Senior Director	920	579.4	533,048.00
CCA, CCE		950	339.9	322,905.00
Jean-Louis Sorondo	Senior Director	950	462.6	439,470.00
Aaron Koranek	Senior Director	920	55.0	50,600.00
		950	107.1	101,745.00
Harrison Leggio	Director	800	63.6	50,880.00
Ching Wei Tan	Director	770	12.7	9,779.00
Wojitek Hajduczyk	Director	725	7.9	5,727.50
Adam Zughayer	Director	660	26.3	17,358.00
Richard Manza	Manager	575	8.1	4,657.00
Amanda Quintile	Associate (promoted to manager	495	274.0	135,630.00
	effective January 1, 2023)			
		600	117.4	70,440.00
Jason Olivo	Associate	495	106.0	52,470.00
		500	45.8	22,900.00
Total Professional Charges				\$3,969,271.00

## EXHIBIT C

## **Summary of Time Billed by Project Category**

Task Code	Description	Hours	Fees
1	Cryptocurrency Analysis	2,441.6	\$ 2,206,574.50
2	Tax Issues	79.5	75,345.00
3	Utility Obligations	243.8	227,252.50
4	Billing and Fee Applications	152.0	134,129.00
5	Investigation Planning and Analysis	224.8	209,830.00
6	Communications with Parties in Interest	48.7	50,470.50
7	Witness Interviews	211.1	212,850.50
8	Report Preparation and Drafting	408.0	397,536.00
9	Business Operations	308.0	244,011.00
10	Asset Valuation	215.8	211,272.00
	Total	4,333.3	\$3,969,271.00

## EXHIBIT D

## **Summary of Prior Fee Applications**

Fee Period, Date Filed & Docket No.	Total Fees Requested	Total Voluntary Discounts	Total Fees Requested Less Voluntary Discounts	Total Expenses Requested	Total Fees Allowed	Total Expenses Allowed
10/10/22- 10/31/22 12/15/22 D.I. 1719	\$518,063.00	\$0.00	\$518,063.00	\$0.00	\$501,510.06	\$0.00
11/01/22- 02/28/23 04/14/23 D.I. 2465	\$3,386,594.00	\$0.00	\$3,386,594.00	\$0.00	\$3,333,570.70	\$0.00
03/01/23- 03/31/23 08/15/23 D.I. 3309	\$64,614.00	\$12,522.00	\$52,093.00	\$607.07	\$52,093.00	\$607.07
TOTALS	\$3,969,271.00	\$12,522.00	\$3,956,750.00	\$607.07	\$3,887,173.76	\$607.07

## **EXHIBIT E**

## **Expense Detail**

Listed below are the expenses incurred for each expense category:

<b>Expense Category</b>		Amount	
Airfare	\$	-	
Ground Transportation		-	
Lodging		-	
Meals		-	
Printing*		607.07	

## **Total Expenses Requested**

\$ 607.07

<sup>\*</sup>Outside printing and binding of Examiner's Report and exhibits.